

San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site

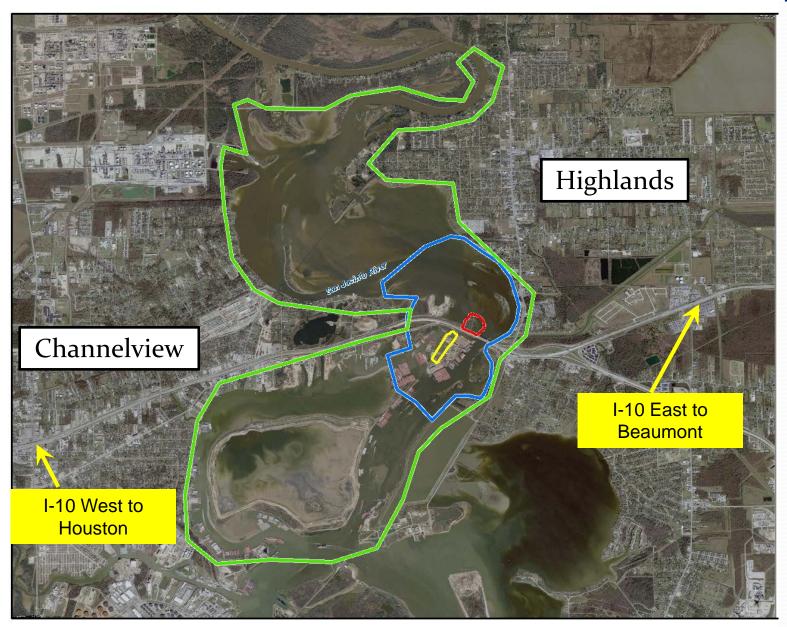
Site Update For EPA HQ

August 11, 2017





San Jacinto River Waste Pits Map



9

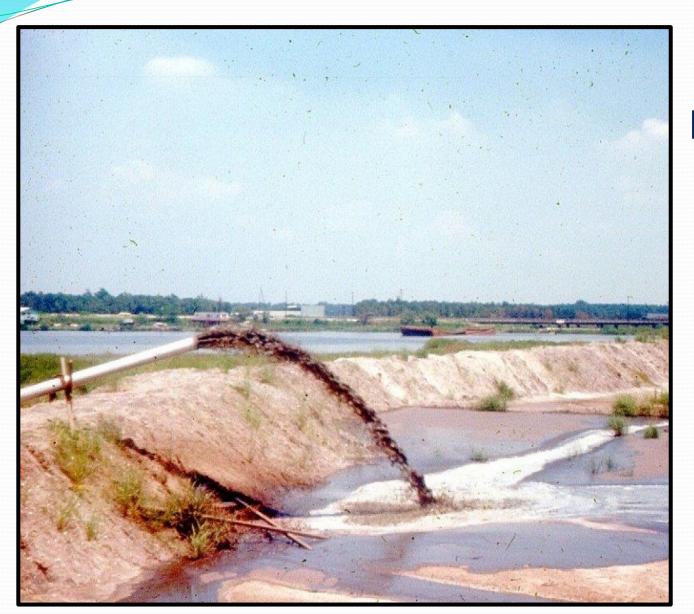
Site History

- 1960s: Paper mill waste disposal.
- 2005: State discovers waste pits.
- 2008: EPA adds Site to the NPL.
- 2009: EPA issues Order to McGinnis and International Paper to conduct RI/FS.
- 2010: EPA & McGinnis & International Paper sign Consent Order to construct a temporary cap.
- 2011: Temporary cap completed.
- 2012: Cap repair.
- 2013 Cap repair.
- 2014: PRPs submit initial draft FS. EPA asks USACE input.

Site History

- 2015: EPA dive team discovers 20 foot gap in the temporary cap; dioxin exposed. PRP's ordered to repair the cap. Intense media interest.
- 2016:
 - Another cap repair needed, inspection protocols updated.
 - 8 foot deep scour found near cap.
 - EPA assumed authorship of the FS.
 - Remedy Review Board, HQ dioxin risk assessors, Contaminated Sediment Workgroup, ORD and OSRTI consulted on Proposed Plan.
 - R-6 issues Proposed Plan for public comment September 28.





San Jacinto River Waste Pits

South Impoundment 1965





Northern Waste Pits Before Cap



North Waste Pits After Cap



Cap Construction Completed July 12, 2011



Remedial Action Objectives

- Prevent releases from the former waste impoundments.
- Reduce human exposure from consumption of fish.
- Reduce human exposure from contact with contaminated materials.
- Reduce exposures of aquatic animals (clams, crabs, etc.).

Other Alternatives Considered

- No further action.
- Institutional controls.
- Upgraded caps.
- Partial Solidification/Stabilization.
- Partial removal alternatives.



None are Reliable for all Storm Events



Preferred Alternative

Northern Waste Pits

- Remove 152,000 cubic yards of waste for offsite disposal.
- Prevent releases during construction.
- Cover remediated areas with clean fill.
- Cost: \$87 million.

9

Preferred Alternative (cont.)

Southern Impoundment

- Remove 50,000 cubic yards of waste for offsite disposal.
- Remove/replace existing building/slab.
- Backfill with clean soil & re-establish vegetation.
- Cost: \$9.9 million.

9

Preferred Alternative Rationale

- The waste is highly toxic and persistent (100s of years).
- High threat of repeated storms and constant river flow against man-made features.
- The history of armor cap maintenance.
- Avoids catastrophic release in un-controlled situation [USACE projected significant loss over 80% cap area].

Changing River Conditions

1966 1997





Public Comment Period

- September 29, 2016 to January 12, 2017; public meeting in October 2016.
- 7,000 written comments received [94% in favor of removal, 3% opposed, 3% no preference] plus 48,000 petition signatures.
- Internet based comment system.
- Public updates: Feb 2017 & May 2017 fact sheets.

Site Stakeholders

- San Jacinto River Coalition
- Galveston Bay Foundation
- Coastal Conservation Association Texas
- San Jacinto River Fleet
- San Jacinto Citizens Against Pollution (CAP)
- Sediment Management Workgroup
- Texas Association of Business
- McGinnes [Waste Management]
- International Paper

Site Stakeholders

- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Harris County
- City of Baytown
- Port of Houston Authority
- Federal & State Trustees (NOAA, USFWS, TCEQ, TX GLO, TPWD)
- Congressional Babin (TX-36); Green (TX-21);
 Weber (TX-14)
- USACE, USGS

San Jacinto River Waste Pits

Record of Decision Schedule

As of: August 2017



- 1. Geomorphology Study (USGS support)
- 2. Model/BMP Study (USACE support)
- 3. Review Comments & Prepare Responses
- 4. Prepare/Issue Record of Decision
- a. Prepare draft ROD
- b. Brief EPA Administrator
- c. R6 review/revision of draft ROD & responsiveness summary
- d. HQs review/comment on draft ROD & responsiveness summary
- e. Prepare/issue final ROD

